

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method of keeping an aqueous solution of sodium borate liquid at a storage temperature, ~~in which method~~ said method comprising, in order to pass said solution from an initial temperature to the storage ~~temperature, temperature:~~
_____ subjecting said aqueous solution of sodium borate ~~is subjected~~ to heat treatment comprising at least one cooling or heating operation at a speed lying in the range 1°C/min to 100°C/min, to reach a holding temperature lying in the range -50°C to +200°C, followed by
_____ holding the holding temperature for a time lying in the range ~~1-s~~ 2 h to 100 h, followed by
_____ cooling or heating at a speed lying in the range 1°C/min to 100°C/min,
_____ so that crystallization is avoided and the solution remains in the form of a viscous liquid.

2. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the heat treatment includes at least two holding operations at different holding temperatures.

3. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein, prior to performing the heat treatment, the aqueous solution of sodium borate is at an initial temperature lying in the range 100°C to 180°C, and after performing the heat treatment, the aqueous solution of sodium borate is at a storage temperature lying in the range -50°C to +300°C.

4. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein the storage treatment lies in the range -20°C to $+50^{\circ}\text{C}$.

5. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution of sodium borate contains 5% to 65% by weight of sodium borate.

6. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 5, wherein the aqueous solution of sodium borate further contains 0% to 10% by weight of soda.

7. (Currently amended): A method of generating hydrogen ~~in which comprising:~~
causing sodium borohydride is caused to react with water and,
extracting therefrom both a gaseous mixture constituted mainly of hydrogen and an aqueous solution of sodium borate ~~are extracted therefrom, wherein, and~~
subjecting the aqueous solution of sodium borate ~~is subjected to the method according to~~
claim 1.

8. (Currently amended): The method of claim 7, comprising feeding the hydrogen to a fuel cell.

9. (Previously presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the fuel cell is the fuel cell of

a motor vehicle.

10. (Canceled)

11. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the holding temperature is held for a time lying in the range 8 h to 100 h.

12. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the holding temperature is held for a time lying in the range 15 h to 100 h.

13. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the initial temperature is in a range from 100 to 180°C, and the storage temperature is in a range from -20 to 50°C.